(t) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Only these Air Taxi Operators who are allowed to be converted into scheduled air transport operators will have to follow guidelines issued on 1.3.1994 for operations to different regions of the country. 30th April, 1994 was the last date for submission of application seeking permission to operate scheduled air transport services.

(c) All scheduled operators are required to provide prescribed level of services to different regions of the country including North East, J&K and Lakshadweep islands etc. Seven Air Taxi operators have alrealy applied for grant of scheduled air transpoter's permit.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration, at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Manufacture of Defence equipment by SSI units

5894. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a plan to involve SSI units in the manufacture of defence equipment and spare;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of SSI units to the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) To further enhance participation of small scale industry in indigenisation of defence stores Supply Wing of the Department of Defence Production and Supplies is undertaking a programme of inter-action with entrepreneurs, particularly those technically qualified. Three day meets have been held at Delhi, Jabalpur, Ludhiana, Coimbatore, Bangalore and Pune at each of which about a thousanl items have been displayed alongwith techno-commercial details and the entrepreneurs have been advised regarding the procedures for their participation. Such meets are programmed to be held also at Calcutta, Kanpur and Rajkot. Representatives of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, banks and financial institutions have been involved in the meets. The meets have attracted enthusiatic participation of about 250 entrepreneurs at each place. It is expected that these will result in the participation of many small scale entrepreneures in indigenous production of defence stores.

Firing rocket by Pak trained militants

5895. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pak-trained militants have started firing by rockets powered by solar batteries and fitted with time bombs on border areas of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of such attacks during the last six months;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these rockets were found tied to the trees inside Indian territory within 2 or 3 Km from line of control; and

(d) the details of counter measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) In the recent past Pak trained militants have been firing disposable rockets in areas near the line of control some of which may have been activated by solar batteries.